

The Impact of the Mental Health Crisis on Law Enforcement

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Recommendation #1

- Address the mental health transportation burden on local law enforcement by providing dedicated funding to offset the costs incurred by our chiefs and sheriffs

Recommendation #2

- Stress the need to identify and use alternate transportation modalities whenever feasible and safe – this may necessitate additional training for law enforcement, magistrates, CSB's and treatment providers

Recommendation #3

- Examine the network of mental health treatment facilities in Virginia to ensure ready access in all areas of the state to minimize transportation times for law enforcement and to provide treatment services that are closer for families (family members may be more likely to provide transportation when the facility isn't more than an hour away.)

Recommendation #4

- Ensure adequate funding for law enforcement to access appropriate training to better understand and interact with the mentally ill and their families.

Recommendation #5

- Provide adequate and appropriate mental health treatment services in our jails and prisons, and in pre-trial and community corrections supervision programs.

Recommendation #6

- Ensure that Virginia courts transmit information on all persons committed for mental health treatment to the Virginia State Police for the purpose of enforcing state and federal firearms purchase prohibitions.

Recommendation #7

- Address the need for a better means of identifying persons with mental health treatment needs, and ensure that treatment is both appropriate and sustained for the long term to help the mentally ill function successfully and safely in our communities.